

US Patent Application Serial No. 10/083,175
Amendment Dated 5/19/2005
Reply to Office Action Dated 7/19/2005

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration. Claims 1, 8, 17, and 19 have been amended. Claims 2-7, 9-16, 18 and 20 remain in the application unchanged. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-16, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobowitz et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,304,969).

Claims 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobowitz et al. in view of Bossard et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,805,979).

The Examiner's rejections of the claims are respectfully traversed.

I. Response to Rejections of Claims

a. Claims 1-7

Applicant's claim 1 recites:

A cable routing tray for routing external cabling of an electronic device, comprising:

a body;

a cable routing channel formed on said body, said cable routing channel comprising an ingress for receiving an external cable, an egress for outputting said external cable, and a guiding path therebetween which allows removable routing of said external cable between said ingress and said egress.

The Jacobowitz Reference

The Examiner cites Jacobowitz as anticipating claim 1. In particular, the Examiner seeks to equate the Thermal Conduction Module (TCM) 10 of Jacobowitz with Applicant's recited "body", the guide member 169 of Jacobowitz with Applicant's recited "cable routing channel", and cable 23 of Jacobowitz with Applicant's "cable". The Examiner further states that Figures 5 and 6 illustrate that the guide member 169 comprises includes an ingress and an egress and a guiding path therebetween.

US Patent Application Serial No. 10/083,175
Amendment Dated 5/19/2005
Reply to Office Action Dated 7/19/2005

Jacobowitz discloses a cable-TCM (Thermal Conduction Module) interface. On a substrate (40) having semiconductors (50), a driver or receiver circuit is provided to interface with an electrical transmission-line (23). Integral means for the electrical transmission line alignment, support and transit through a sealed environment are also provided. A fluid tight seal is also provided for the various components that are in the interior of the housing. (Jacobowitz, Abstract).

In contrast, Applicant's claimed invention is directed at a cable routing tray which allows removable routing of external cables of an electronic device from one face of the device to another.

Jacobowitz does not teach or suggest a "a cable routing channel formed on said body, said cable routing channel comprising an ingress for receiving an external cable, an egress for outputting said external cable, and a guiding path therebetween which allows removable routing of said external cable between said ingress and said egress". Jacobowitz teaches "integral means for the electrical transmission line alignment, support and transit through a sealed environment". (Jacobowitz, Abstract). To construct the TCM 10, a retainer 151 is used to securely accommodate the spirally wound integral delay line 71 within the coaxial cable guide channel 169 (Jacobowitz, col. 8, lines 33-37), and the retainer 151 and channel 169 are sealed within the TCM 10 by substrate 40, lower frame 12, seal frame 14, and upper frame 16. As shown in Jacobowitz, Figures 1 and 7, once the TCM 10 is assembled, the transmission line 23 is permanently sealed within the TCM 10. Accordingly, when the TCM 10 is assembled, the transmission line 23 cannot be removed and therefore the channel 169 does not provide any means "which allows removable routing of" the transmission line 23 from the channel 169 as recited by Applicant's claim 1.

Under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co.*, 814 F.2d 628 (Fed. Cir.), *cert. denied*, 484 U.S. 827 (1987). Since Jacobowitz does not meet each and every limitation of Applicant's claim 1, per

Docket No. 10010753-1
JJC 4050-019

US Patent Application Serial No. 10/083,175
Amendment Dated 5/19/2005
Reply to Office Action Dated 7/19/2005

Verdegaal Bros., Inc., supra, Jacobowitz cannot be used in formulating an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The Bossard Reference

Bossard discloses a fiber optic splice closure for protecting the splice made into a transmission cable. Bossard does not make up for the deficiencies of Jacobowitz in meeting Applicant's Claim 1. In particular, Bossard also does not teach "a cable routing channel formed on said body, said cable routing channel comprising an ingress for receiving an external cable, an egress for outputting said external cable, and a guiding path therebetween which allows removable routing of said external cable between said ingress and said egress". In Bossard, the channel is formed by mating the base 16 and cover 17. The channel is therefore formed within the base 16 and cover 17 when assembled and not "on said body" as required by Applicant's claim 1. Further, when the closure assembly 15 is assembled, the channel formed between the base 16 and cover 17 cannot be equated with "a guiding path therebetween for removably routing said external cable between said ingress and said egress" since the fiber optic cables cannot be removed without disassembling the closure assembly 15. Accordingly, Jacobowitz even in combination with Bossard does not meet the limitations of Applicant's claim 1.

The Gretz Reference

Gretz discloses a cable support which provides a curved surface over which the cabling is laid and provides means to permit separation of individual cables to inhibit their shifting within the support. Gretz does not make up for the deficiencies of Jacobowitz and Bossard in meeting Applicant's Claim 1. In particular, Gretz also does not teach "a cable routing channel formed on said body, said cable routing channel comprising an ingress for receiving an external cable, an egress for outputting said external cable, and a guiding path therebetween which allows removable routing of said external cable between said ingress and said egress". In Gretz, cables are laid over a curved surface to support the cables. The cable support does not include an

Docket No. 10010753-1
JJC 4050-019

US Patent Application Serial No. 10/083,175
Amendment Dated 5/19/2005
Reply to Office Action Dated 7/19/2005

ingress, an egress, or a guiding path therebetween for routing the cables. Accordingly, Jacobowitz even in combination with Bossard and/or Gretz, does not meet the limitations of Applicant's claim 1.

The Norris Reference

Norris discloses a cable tray in which cables are hung on hangers. Norris does not make up for the deficiencies of Jacobowitz and/or Bossard and/or Gretz in meeting Applicant's Claim 1. In particular, Gretz also does not teach "a cable routing channel formed on said body, said cable routing channel comprising an ingress for receiving an external cable, an egress for outputting said external cable, and a guiding path therebetween which allows removable routing of said external cable between said ingress and said egress". Accordingly, Jacobowitz even in combination with Bossard, Gretz, and/or Norris does not meet the limitations of Applicant's claim 1.

Response to Examiner's Arguments

The Examiner agrees that the prior art does not specifically teach a cable routing tray for routing external cables. The Examiner states that: "However, Jacobowitz does teach routing cables. It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987)."

However, in the previous Response, the Applicant also argued that Jacobowitz and the other recited prior art also did not teach "a guiding path therebetween for *removably* routing said external cable between said ingress and said egress". The Examiner did not respond to this point.

In order to clarify the structure of the guiding path in that it requires formation such that its structural formation allows an external cable to not only be routed therethrough but to allow removal of the routed cable, the independent claims 1, 8, 17, and 19 have been amended to recite "a cable routing channel formed on said body, said cable routing channel comprising an ingress for receiving an external cable, an egress for outputting said

Docket No. 10010753-1
JJC 4050-019

US Patent Application Serial No. 10/083,175
Amendment Dated 5/19/2005
Reply to Office Action Dated 7/19/2005

external cable, and a guiding path therebetween which allows removable routing of said external cable between said ingress and said egress". This limitation is now structural and none of the prior art meets this limitation.

Summary

Accordingly, for all of the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the prior art of record teaches the invention as claimed in Applicant's Claim 1. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn and that claim 1 is now in position for allowance.

Claims 2-7 each depend from independent base claim 1 and add further limitations. For at least the same reasons that Claim 1 is not shown, taught, or disclosed by the cited references, Claims 2-7 are likewise not shown, taught, or disclosed. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 2-7 should be withdrawn.

b. Claims 8-18

Amended claim 8 now recites:

An electronic instrument comprising:
a housing;
an electrical connector positioned on a first face of said housing;
a first cable routing channel formed on a second face of said housing, said second face adjacent to said first face of said housing, said cable routing channel comprising:
an ingress in proximity to said electrical connector for receiving an external cable,
an egress in proximity to a third face of said housing for outputting said external cable, and
a guiding path connecting said ingress and said egress which allows removable routing of said external cable between said ingress and said egress.

Claim 8 recites similar limitations to claim 1, including "an external cable" and a "cable routing channel" comprising "a guiding path connecting said ingress and said egress which allows removable routing of said external cable between said ingress and said egress ". For at least the same reasons that Claim 1 is not shown, taught, or disclosed by the cited references, Claim 8 is likewise not shown, taught, or disclosed. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 8 should be withdrawn.

Docket No. 10010753-1
JJC 4050-019

US Patent Application Serial No. 10/083,175
Amendment Dated 5/19/2005
Reply to Office Action Dated 7/19/2005

Claims 9-18 each depend from independent base claim 8 and add further limitations. For at least the same reasons that Claim 8 is not shown, taught, or disclosed by the cited references, Claims 9-18 are likewise not shown, taught, or disclosed. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 9-18 should be withdrawn.

c. Claims 19-20

Amended claim 19 now recites:

A method for routing an external cable attached to an electronic connector mounted on a first face of an electronic instrument to a second face of said electronic instrument, comprising:
providing on said instrument a routing channel from said first face of said electronic instrument to said second face of said electronic instrument, said routing channel comprising an ingress in proximity to said electrical connector for receiving said external cable, an egress in proximity to a third face of said housing for outputting said external cable, and a guiding path connecting said ingress and said egress which allows removable routing of said external cable between said ingress and said egress.

Claim 19 recites similar limitations to claim 1, including "an external cable" and a "routing channel" comprising "a guiding path connecting said ingress and said egress which allows removable routing of said external cable between said ingress and said egress ". For at least the same reasons that Claim 1 is not shown, taught, or disclosed by the cited references, Claim 19 is likewise not shown, taught, or disclosed. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 19 should be withdrawn.

Claim 20 depends from independent base claim 19 and adds further limitations. For at least the same reasons that Claim 19 is not shown, taught, or disclosed by the cited references, Claim 20 is likewise not shown, taught, or disclosed. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 20 should be withdrawn.

II. Entry of Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

The response to the final rejection included herein includes minor amendments to emphasize the structural requirements of the limitation of the

Docket No. 10010753-1
JJC 4050-019

US Patent Application Serial No. 10/083,175
Amendment Dated 5/19/2005
Reply to Office Action Dated 7/19/2005

"guiding path" limitation of the independent claims in order to more particularly point out the distinct differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. Because the amendment does not add new limitations but rather emphasizes the structural aspect of a pre-existing limitation, namely the replacement of the previous recited limitation "for removably routing" with the more structurally accurate term —which allows removable routing of—, the Applicant maintains that a new search of the prior art would not be required since the removability aspect of this limitation was previously presented. The Applicant therefore maintains that entry of this Response is proper and should therefore be entered pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Docket No. 10010753-1
JJG 4050-019

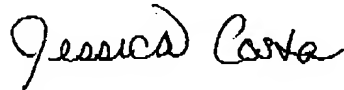
US Patent Application Serial No. 10/083,175
Amendment Dated 5/19/2005
Reply to Office Action Dated 7/19/2005

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that none of the references cited by the Examiner taken alone or in any combination shows, teaches, or discloses the claimed invention, and that Claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this amendment, or should the Examiner believe that it would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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